

National Security Council File

1973 War (Middle East), 6 October, 1973 — File No. 1  
[1 of 2]

3



DOCUMENT WITHDRAWAL RECORD [NIXON PROJECT]				
DOCUMENT NUMBER	DOCUMENT TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE OR CORRESPONDENTS	DATE	RESTRICTION
1	memo w/attach.	Quandt and Stukel to HAK (12 PP) MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 02-62/2	10/6/73	B
2	memo	Cline to the Secretary (2 PP) MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 02-62/3	9/30/73	B
3	brief	re: Watch Committee meeting (2 PP) MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 02-62/4	10/6/73	B
4	report	Arab-Israeli Hostilities ... (32 PP) MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 02-62/5	10/6/73	B
5	report	Spot Report (1 P) MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 02-62/6	11/6/73	B
6	cable	Tel Aviv to DIA (3 PP) MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 02-62/7	10/6/73	B
FILE GROUP TITLE NSC Files, Savnders Files: Middle East Negotiations			BOX NUMBER 1173	
FOLDER TITLE (3) 1973 Middle East War File 1 October 6, 1973 [1 of 2] [1 of 2]				

RESTRICTION CODES

A. Release would violate a Federal statute or Agency Policy.  
 B. National security classified information.  
 C. Pending or approved claim that release would violate an individual's rights.  
 D. Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy or a libel of a living person.

E. Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information.  
 F. Release would disclose investigatory information compiled for law enforcement purposes.  
 G. Withdrawn and return private and personal material.  
 H. Withdrawn and returned non-historical material.

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7	report	Situation Report (4 PP) MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 02-62/8	10/6/73	B
8	report	Spot Report (4 PP) MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 02-62/9	10/6/73	B
9	report	re: Middle East (2 PP) MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 02-62/10	10/6/73	B
FILE GROUP TITLE			BOX NUMBER	
NSC Files, Saunders Files: Middle East Negotiations			1173	
FOLDER TITLE				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>(3) 1973 Middle East War File 1</span> <span>[2 of 2]</span> </div>				
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FILE GROUP TITLE

NSC

BOX NUMBER

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FOLDER TITLE

(3)

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FILE GROUP TITLE NSC			BOX NUMBER 1173	
FOLDER TITLE (3) [2 of 2]				

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NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS PROJECT  
DOCUMENT CONTROL RECORD

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73 War

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 6, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRENT SCOWCROFT  
FROM: WILLIAM B. QUANDT  
SUBJECT: Arab-Israel Tensions

Ambassador Keating met with Prime Minister Meir this morning and was informed that Israel had received information from totally reliable sources that Syria and Egypt are planning a coordinated attack against Israel today in the late afternoon. In addition, she confirmed that Soviet dependents and some advisers are being evacuated from Egypt and Syria. She has asked that we inform the Soviets and the Egyptians that:

- Israel is not planning to attack Syria or Egypt. It has called up "some reserves" on a contingency basis, but has not declared a general mobilization.
- Israel is aware of military dispositions in Egypt and Syria and knows that in any war they will lose, even if Israel will suffer some casualties.

Mrs. Meir assured Ambassador Keating that Israel does not intend to launch a preemptive attack and is genuinely interested in avoiding war.

Other information of note is that Cairo appears normal this morning, with no sign of special military precautions. We do, however, have confirmation that as many as 1,000 Soviet dependents have left Egypt. Some reduction in the number of Soviet advisers in Syria is also apparently underway. In addition, we know that the Egyptian forces, as part of their current fall maneuvers, are on a high state of alert and that Syrian forces have been repositioned along the Golan Heights cease-fire lines.

Several possible interpretations of the evidence can be made:

1. Egypt and Syria, despite the military odds against success, do intend to initiate hostilities as a way of forcing international attention to the Middle East and activating the use of oil as a political weapon against the United States. The Soviets have gotten wind of this and are evacuating dependents and some advisers. In so far as Soviet advisers are included in the evacuation, the effectiveness of an Arab attack is likely to be somewhat degraded and the risks of Soviet involvement will lessen.

2. A major crisis is under way in Arab-Soviet relations, and under the cover of a war scare, Soviet advisers are being expelled from both Egypt and Syria. There have been numerous strains in Arab-Soviet relations recently, and King Faisal has been pressing hard to convince Sadat and Asad to cut their ties to Moscow.

Our intelligence services have continued to downplay the likelihood of an Arab attack on Israel and still have no signs that such action is imminent. They appear to favor the alternative explanation of a crisis in Arab-Soviet relations.

If hostilities are imminent, we should immediately consider the following actions:

-- Demarche to the Soviets and Egyptians to convey Prime Minister Meir's message and to add our own statement about the need to avoid hostilities.

-- Activate first steps for possible evacuation of U.S. citizens from key Arab countries (Lebanon, Libya, Saudi Arabia)

-- Convene oil task force to prepare on a contingency basis for cutoff of Arab oil.

-- Consult with Israelis and Jordanians on steps to be taken in the event of hostilities. In particular, we want to make sure that Jordan does not get drawn in.

-- Ask the Shah of Iran to use his influence with President Sadat to discourage a resort to force.

-- Alert U.S. forces in the Mediterranean and Europe for possible action in the Middle East.



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Wor  
7:00 AM



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Department of State

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CONTROL: 1823Q  
06 OCT 73, 2111Z

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE 8109  
BT  
SECRET STATE 199655

NODIS

E.O. 11652 - GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, IR  
SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST HOSTILITIES: MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY  
TO SHAH

FOR AMBASSADOR HELMS FROM THE SECRETARY

1. WE HAVE GIVEN ZAHEDI ONLY A GENERAL BRIEFING HERE, BUT I WANT TO KEEP SHAH FULLY IN THE PICTURE REGARDING ME DEVELOPMENTS. PLEASE CONVEY FOLLOWING ORAL MESSAGE TO SHAH FROM SECRETARY.

BEGIN TEXT:

WE HAVE RECEIVED WORD EARLY THIS MORNING FROM ISRAELIS THAT SYRIANS AND EGYPTIANS WERE PLANNING COORDINATED ATTACK ON ISRAELIS WITHIN SEVERAL HOURS AND ASKING US TO INTERVENE TO PREVENT SUCH AN ATTACK.

I CONTACTED SOVIETS, EGYPTIANS, FAISAL AND HUSSEIN WITHIN NEXT TWO HOURS ASKING THEIR INTERVENTION TO PREVENT SUCH ATTACK. WE CONVEYED TO SOVIETS AND EGYPTIANS CATEGORIC ASSURANCES WE SOLICITED AND RECEIVED FROM ISRAELIS THAT THEY WOULD NOT TAKE PREEMPTIVE ACTION.

NEVERTHELESS, EGYPTIANS AND SYRIANS ATTACKED MILITARILY IN SINAI AND GOLAN HEIGHTS RESPECTIVELY, AND ISRAELIS NOW HAVE INITIATED COUNTER-MEASURES.

OUR STRATEGY HAS BEEN TO PREVENT HOSTILITIES FROM BEGINNING. NOW THAT THEY HAVE BEGUN, WE ARE USING OUR INFLUENCE TO RESTORE THE CEASEFIRE ON THE BASIS OF STATUS QUO ANTE, REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE MILITARY SITUATION IS ON GROUND. IN ANY SC PROCEEDINGS, WE WILL PURSUE THIS COURSE.

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

SECRET





Department of State

SECRET

-2-STATE 199655, OCT 6

WE HAVE OFFERED TO SOVIETS TO ACT JOINTLY WITH THEM --  
IN AND OUTSIDE OF SC-- TO ACHIEVE CEASEFIRE ON BASIS  
STATUS QUO ANTE. IF THEY FAIL TO COME ALONG ON THIS,  
AND INSTEAD GIVE POLITICAL SUPPORT TO ARABS, WE INTEND  
TO SUPPORT ISRAELIS SINCE ONLY WAY TO KEEP OPEN  
POSSIBILITIES OF DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES OF WHICH I  
SPOKE TO SHAH TO HELP SETTLE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE IS TO  
MAINTAIN CREDIBILITY OF U.S. SUPPORT OF ISRAELI SECURITY.

WE ARE ALSO CAREFULLY ASSESSING SOVIET POSITION ON THESE  
DEVELOPMENTS WHICH IS NOT CLEAR AT THIS TIME. IT IS  
IMPORTANT THAT THE SOVIETS UNDERSTAND CLEARLY HOW  
SERIOUSLY WE VIEW PRESENT SITUATION AND UNDERSTAND  
OUR EXPECTATIONS THAT THEY ACT CONSTRUCTIVELY IN THIS  
MATTER IF IMPROVED RELATIONSHIPS ARE TO BE MAINTAINED.

IN THE MEANTIME, WE ARE CONSIDERING CERTAIN PRECAUTIONARY  
STEPS ON OUR PART AS WE FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY AND  
CONTINUE OUR ACTIVE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS.

WE WANT TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH HIS MAJESTY, AND  
WE HOPE HE WILL UNDERTAKE EFFORTS PARALLELING OUR OWN.  
END TEXT. KISSINGER

BT

#9655

DRAFTED BY: NEA:JJSISCO  
CLEARANCES: S/S-MR. BARNES

APPROVED: THE SECRETARY

SECRET

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OD (LDX)  
IA(LDX)  
SA(LDX)

SECRET/EXDIS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Operations Center

MIDDLE EAST TASK FORCE

Situation Report No. 3

Situation in the Middle East, as of 1800 Hours (EDT), Oct. 6, 1973

Military Situation. Fighting has died down since night fell. Since 1154 no hostilities other than Israeli sorties have been reported. Both the Jordanian and Lebanese borders with Israel have remained quiet.

Davan Speech. In a televised speech at 9:00 p.m. local (1400 EDT), Israeli Defense Minister Dayan expressed confidence that IDF would repulse the invaders. He admitted that difficult fighting had taken place on both fronts. Some Syrian tanks had penetrated the cease fire line. Egyptians had crossed the Suez Canal at five points and more were expected to cross during the night. Israel, Dayan said, had not wanted to launch a pre-emptive strike. He warned that fighting may continue for several days.

UN Developments. No moves by any of the combatants to convoke the Security Council have been taken. Feeling is developing among Security Council members for informal consultations among separate groups or individual members of the SC with the SC president. The aim would be to produce a piece of paper authorizing the SC President or the UNSYG to address an appeal for a cease fire to both sides. SC President McIntyre (Australia) told Ambassador Scali he would prefer any call for a SC meeting to come from the US or Israel; a call by him under Article 99 should be reserved as a last resort. (EXDIS)

The Egyptians during the afternoon submitted a request for an urgent meeting of the UNGA to discuss the situation. The Egyptians do not appear to be pursuing this initiative, which may be a temporizing move. Washington Ambassadors of Security Council member countries were telephoned at 1445 EDT and asked to stand by for possible consultations with the Department.

Cruise Ship Seized by Syria. A Greek flag cruise ship, the Romantica, bound from Patmos to Beirut, has been diverted, apparently by Syrian authorities, to the Syrian port of Tartous.

SECRET/EXDIS

SECRET/EXDIS

- 2 -

There are 207 Americans (believed to be members of a Baptist group) and 105 Greeks aboard. We have sent a message to Rome asking the Italians to check on the American passengers' welfare and to seek assurances they will be allowed to depart Syria.

APPROVED BY: P. Peter Smith

DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

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S E C R E T

\*\*\*\*\*S COPY

OP IMMED  
DE RUEHC #9688 2800635  
O 070621Z OCT 73  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 199688

EXDIS INFORM CONSULS  
MO. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: XX  
SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

*State guidance*

1. FOLLOWING FYI IS SUMMARY OF CURRENT MIDDLE EAST SITUATION EVENING OCTOBER 6.

2. FOLLOWING SEVERAL DAYS OF FRAGMENTARY REPORTS OF SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN MILITARY MOVEMENTS BEHIND THEIR RESPECTIVE CEASEFIRE LINES, ISRAELIS INFORMED US MID-MORNING OCTOBER 6 THEY HAD REASON TO BELIEVE COORDINATED SYRIAN/EGYPTIAN ATTACK WOULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN FEW HOURS. THEY HAD ALSO ASSURED US THEY WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT UNDERTAKE PREEMPTIVE MILITARY ACTION. WE MOVED QUICKLY IN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS WITH SOVIETS, EGYPTIANS, SAUDIS AND JORDANIANS IN EFFORT TO FORESTALL MILITARY ACTION. IN MATTER OF FEW HOURS, HOWEVER, HOSTILITIES BEGAN ON BOTH FRONTS. IN BACKGROUNDING PRESS, WE HAVE RESERVED JUDGMENT RE WHO BEGAN THE FIGHTING, BUT STRICTLY FYI INDICATIONS ARE CLEAR THAT THIS WAS SYRIAN/EGYPTIAN INITIATIVE. SUCH ACTION IS CONSISTENT WITH POLITICO-MILITARY STRATEGY PRESIDENT SADAT WAS KNOWN TO BE CONTEMPLATING EARLIER THIS YEAR, DESIGNED TO CREATE CRISIS, WHEN LIMITED MILITARY GAINS AND PUT PRESSURE ON WORLD COMMUNITY AND MAJOR POWERS IN PARTICULAR TO PRESS FOR POLITICAL PROGRESS. SADAT'S STRATEGY OVER PAST TWO MONTHS AT

LEAST HAS BEEN TO EMPHASIZE LONG-RANGE POLITICAL STRATEGY IN CONTEXT OF NEW SAUDI-EGYPTIAN-JORDANIAN ALIGNMENT AND TO DE-EMPHASIZE POSSIBILITY OF EARLY MILITARY ACTION. REASONS FOR DECISION TO LAUNCH THIS ATTACK IF IN EFFECT

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THIS PROVES TO BE THE CASE, WILL HAVE TO AWAIT FURTHER ANALYSIS.

3. MEANWHILE, MILITARY SITUATION NIGHTFALL OCTOBER 6 IS GENERALLY AS FOLLOWS: THERE HAS BEEN AIR ACTIVITY ON BOTH FRONTS BUT CONCENTRATED ALONG SYRIAN CEASEFIRE LINES. THERE DO NOT APPEAR TO BE SIGNIFICANT PENETRATIONS OF LINES ON GROUND OF SYRIAN FRONT, ALTHOUGH HEAVY ARMORED ENCOUNTERS HAVE APPARENTLY TAKEN PLACE. ON EGYPTIAN FRONT, EGYPTIANS HAVE ESTABLISHED FOOTHOLDS EAST OF SUEZ CANAL IN SINAI AGAINST THINLY-HELD ISRAELI POSITIONS AND APPARENTLY AT CONSIDERABLE COST OF LOSS OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT. ISRAELIS, WHO WERE CELEBRATING JEWISH DAY OF ATONEMENT (YOM KIPPUR) INSTITUTED MOBILIZATION. DEFENSE MINISTER DAYAN HAS WARNED ISRAELIS THAT FIGHTING MAY CONTINUE FOR SEVERAL DAYS BUT HAS EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCES WILL REPULSE INVADERS.

4. JORDAN AND LEBANON HAVE REMAINED ALOOF FROM FIGHTING AND GIVE EVERY INDICATION OF SEEKING TO AVOID INVOLVEMENT. PUBLIC MEDIA AND GOVERNMENTAL STATEMENTS IN ARAB WORLD HAVE FOLLOWED EGYPTIAN/SYRIAN LINE THAT ISRAELIS INITIATED ATTACKS.

5. IN CONSULTATIONS AMONG SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS IN NEW YORK, WE HAVE TAKEN POSITION THAT ANY SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION MUST CALL FOR CEASEFIRE AND RESTORATION OF STATUS QUO ANTE, I.E., THAT ALL FORCES MUST WITHDRAW TO THEIR RESPECTIVE SIDES OF CEASEFIRE LINES. CONSULTATIONS INCONCLUSIVE SO FAR, WITH CERTAIN MEMBERS TALKING ABOUT SIMPLE CEASE FIRE. WE HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT RESTORATION OF STATUS QUO ANTE IS NECESSARY TO CREATE CONDITIONS IN WHICH PEACE SETTLEMENT EFFORTS, TO WHICH WE INTEND TO DEVOTE HIGH PRIORITY IN PERIOD AHEAD, CAN GO FORWARD, THERE HAS SO FAR BEEN NO CALL REPEAT NO CALL FOR MEETING, AND CONSULTATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO RESUME MORNING OCTOBER 7. WE WILL REVIEW OUR POSITION ON THIS MATTER SUNDAY A.M.

6. ABOVE IS STRICTLY FOR YOUR BACKGROUND ONLY. KISSINGER  
BT

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S E C R E T

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE 6386  
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USINT CAIRO IMMEDIATE 3520  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE 4909  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 2141  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 1140  
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 1748  
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE 1099

*Keating reports  
on Mrs. Meir's  
Speech*

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 7776

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MOPS, XF, IS

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS ABOUT INITIATION OF HOSTILITIES

MRS MEIR, IN BRIEF RESTRAINED ADDRESS ON TV AND RADIO AT 18:30  
LOCAL TIME, ANNOUNCED THAT AT 14:00 LOCAL TIME EGYPT AND SYRIA  
ATTACKED ISRAEL WITH AIR, ARTILLERY AND TANK UNITS ON SUEZ  
CANAL AND GOLAN HEIGHTS.

2. MRS. MEIR SAID THAT SYRIA AND EGYPT HAD PLANNED VIOLATION OF  
CEASEFIRE FOR SOME TIME AND THAT IT WAS A LIE THAT ISRAEL HAD  
BROKEN THE CEASEFIRE FIRST. ISRAEL HAD KNOWN FOR SOME DAYS THAT  
EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN ARMIES WERE GETTING READY FOR OFFENSIVE  
ATTACKS IN THE SINAI AND THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. IDF PATROLS  
AUTHENTICATED THIS INFORMATION.

3. INVADERS BELIEVED THAT ISRAEL WAS INCAPABLE OF EFFECTIVE  
MILITARY RESPONSE ON YOM KIPPUR. BUT ISRAEL HAD NOT BEEN TAKEN  
BY SURPRISE. IDF WAS FIGHTING ON BOTH FRONTS AND HAD ALREADY  
REPELLED INVADERS. THE ENEMY HAD SUSTAINED HEAVY LOSSES. THERE  
WAS NO DOUBT THAT ISRAEL WOULD WIN.

4. MRS MEIR SAID ISRAEL HAD TRIED TO PREVENT START OF HOSTILITIES.  
GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN IN SESSION SINCE THIS MORNING. ISRAEL HAD ASKED  
"POLITICAL ELEMENTS" TO APPEAL TO SYRIANS AND EGYPTIANS NOT ✓

PSN:048938

PAGE 01

TOR:279/18:11Z

DTG:061722Z OCT 73

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TO START HOSTILITIES BUT IN MIDST OF THIS ACTIVITY, THEY ATTACKED.

5. GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN IDF FULL AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT AIR, ✓  
ARTILLERY AND NAVAL ACTIVITIES, AND IDF IS OPERATING IN ALL THESE  
SPHERES. IN CONCLUSION, MRS MEIR REMINDED NATION THAT THIS WAS  
NOT FICXL TIIAFEUAT ISRAEL HAD CONFRONTED

DMO

B J

CALLLED ON  
FGILL CITIZENS TO NEET THEIR RESPONSIBIL  
LIES.  
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Operations Center

MIDDLE EAST TASK FORCE

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Situation Report No. 1

Situation in the Middle East, as of 1000 Hours (EDT), Oct. 6, 1973.

RS Syria and Egypt launched air and artillery attacks against  
LG Israeli forces in Sinai and Golan Heights at 1200 GMT (0800 EDT)  
October 6, 1973. The scope of the fighting is unknown now,  
but we have one report of fighting in the Arqub region of  
Lebanon. There are no indications at this time of cross-canal  
LDX) ground operations by either Egypt or Israel. Syrian aircraft  
(LDX) have bombed the northern Israeli town of Kiryat Shmona.  
(LDX)  
(LDX) Prime Minister Meir provided first indications of impending  
attack to Ambassador Keating at 0415 EDT stressing that Israel  
would not attack preemptively and asking the U.S. to pass this  
information urgently to Arabs and Soviets. Israeli intelligence  
claimed hard information that Syria and Egypt planned a  
coordinated attack before nightfall October 6, and that the  
Soviet advisors and Soviet dependents are being evacuated  
from Syria and Egypt.

We urged King Hussein and King Faisal to intervene with  
President Sadat and President Assad not to attack. US-Soviet  
contacts are proceeding on an urgent basis.

APPROVED BY:

*Roderick M. Wright*  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

SECRET



Public Status S/Q/N  
10/6/73 #626  
McCluskey

McGloskey, SAC., (Oct 6, 1956)  
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never had any indication from any of the Ministers that there was a military action intended by any of the governments. Indeed, the entire emphasis, as I am sure those of you who have followed our activities here, the entire emphasis in the Middle East was one of peaceful intention, one that emphasized the desire certainly shared by us that we hoped that diplomacy would become a little more active in that area and that negotiations for a peaceful settlement might be undertaken. Coming back to this morning, the Secretary, not necessarily in the following order, has been in contact with the Foreign Ministers of Egypt and Israel, the Secretary General of the UN, the President of the Security Council, who this month is the Permanent Representative of Australia, Ambassador Dobrynin of the Soviet Embassy in Washington, and messages were sent by the Secretary to King Faisal and King Hussein in their respective capitals. All of the diplomatic steps that the Secretary has undertaken were at the direction of the President and in turn the Secretary has kept the President informed of the substance of the conversations. All of this has been by telephone. The Secretary has had no direct person-to-person meetings with people whose names I have so far mentioned.

Anticipating a question on the Security Council and the likelihood of a meeting, as of the time I came down here, there was no decision by anyone that we are aware of requesting a meeting of the Security Council. Obviously, that in the present circumstances cannot be ruled out, and, in summary, our present estimate is a rather obvious one that there is serious fighting under way in the Middle East.

Perhaps some of the reports may even be ahead of our own information but that seems eminently clear. Now I will be glad to answer a few brief questions because we are hoping to return to Washington very soon.

Q- (Tape didn't pick up)

A- The Secretary made an effort to reach the Syrian Foreign Minister, and as of the time I came down here he had not succeeded.

Q- Are there any indications any New Yorkers may be trapped in the middle of this?

A- One would have to say that this is a possibility, given the number of Americans from everywhere who this time of year are in the area. Whether in fact they would be where the actual fighting is occurring I think would be terribly hard to say.

Q- (Tape didn't pick up)

A- I wouldn't want to draw any conclusions one way or the other. I tried to outline the chronology of events as we ourselves have reviewed them without making any judgment.

Q- Is the State Department's view that the Arabs initiated the attack?

A- I said that the principal effort throughout the morning was to ascertain the facts, to try to construct the most sensible diplomatic means to bring about a cessation of the fighting, and in light of that effort, which has not been completed, I don't want to draw any judgments.

Q- (Couldn't hear any questions)

A- I just couldn't get into that kind of detail right now. I think that is going to have to wait our return to Washington.

Q- Could you tell us anything about the seriousness of the situation, about how many people are involved?

A- Certainly not with any confidence. There is fighting along both Egyptian and Syrian borders. Our present information indicates

that it involves both air and land weapons at least. We saw a report earlier in the morning that we do not have any confirmation of that the Israelis have taken action in the Gulf of Suez, but I would have to emphasize here, as we of now we do not have the best communications arrangements that we would like to have in a situation like this, and this is more reason for going back to Washington.

Q. (Question couldn't be heard on tape).

A. No, I don't know the answer to that. I would speculate in that direction.

Q. What will the Secretary be doing when he gets back to Wash?

A. Well, there was to have been -- or whether they have gotten together yet in Washington -- A WSAG meeting and for those of you in New York not familiar with this acronym -- it is an acronym for Washington Special Action Group. It is an inter-departmental group of senior officials who meet in the White House in times of emergencies where U.S. interests are affected. So one thing could be to ascertain how far that group has gotten with its meeting.

Q. (Couldn't hear question)

A. Our appeal, yes, indeed, in each of these communications it has been to urge restraint, to avoid the undermining -- the violation -- of the permanence of the ceasefire that has been in effect since 1970; to avoid any escalation and any continuation of the fighting. That has been the substance of our contact.

Q. Do you have any information or indication how these hostilities were initiated?

A. No, we have not sufficient information to make a judgment in that regard as of now.

Q. When did the President get his call.

A. Around 6:00 A.M.

Q. Was there any positive response from the Foreign Ministers saying we will do what we can, or what was the reply?

A. I'd rather leave their replies and their comments to themselves. They are here available in New York, and leave it to you to get in touch with them.

Q. Would you say this is in any way another 1967 war?

A. I wouldn't, with any confidence, attempt that broad answer. It is quite obviously serious in its degree and we will undertake every effort to see that it is brought to a stop.

Q. When you mentioned build-up of arms did you include Soviet arms to Syria?

A. I don't want to say yes or no that that, because that is a highlight on one aspect of a <sup>series</sup> of reports that are much broader in detail than that one point.

Q. Have you been informed of any action in the air.

A. We have had reports that there is action on the ground and in the air along the Egyptian and Syrian borders with Israel.

Q. Have you any reports of a buildup of Israeli \_\_\_\_\_?

A. To the best of my knowledge, no.

Q. Does the Secretary have any personal meetings scheduled

~~before he goes?~~



-6-

A. If that happens I will let you know before we leave, but there was nothing like that scheduled when I came down.

Q. What time are you going to leave?

A. I guess it will be around one o'clock.

Thank you Bob.

Q. What time is it now? \* \* \* \* \*

10/6/73 73 War  
PASS FOLLOWING TO SECRETARY OF STATE, HENRY KISSINGER: *score 2017*

TO: HENRY KISSINGER *X Saidi*

FROM: KING FAYSAL *Room 2017*

I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR EXCELLENCY'S MESSAGE WHICH WAS BASED  
ON A REPORT RECEIVED FROM ISRAEL THAT EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN  
FORCES INTEND TO LAUNCH A CO-ORDINATED ATTACK ON ISRAELI FORCES.

CLASHES ACTUALLY HAVE BEGUN BETWEEN EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN FORCES  
ON ONE SIDE AND THE ISRAELI FORCES ON THE OTHER, IN AIR AND LAND.  
YOUR EXCELLENCY MUST REST ASSURED THAT ISRAEL HAS STARTED THE  
HOSTILITIES. IN MY OPINION THAT THIS ATTACK IS A LINK IN THE  
MANY POLITICAL ISRAELI CHAIN TO EXECUTE ITS EXPANSION POLICY  
WHICH IT HAS PLANNED TO ENFORCE ITS POLICY OF AGGRESSION AGAINST  
THE ARAB STATES. BECAUSE THE ARAB QUDID NOT COMMIT ANY.  
AGGRESSION AGAINST ISRAEL SINCE ITS CREATION. THE AGGRESSION  
HAS ALWAYS BEEN STARTED BY ISRAEL SO THAT IN EVERY ACT OF

AGGRESSION IT GAINS NEW TERRITORIES IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH ITS PLANS. UNLESS THE USA HASTENS TO CURB ISRAEL FROM GOING  
TOO FAR IN ITS BELLIGERENCE AND AGGRESSION. THE VOLCANO  
WHICH HAS BEEN DORMANT UNTIL NOW WILL ERUPT IN THE AREA OF THE  
M.E. ITS DESTRUCTION SHALL NOT BE LIMITED TO THE ME AREA ALONE.  
RATHER IT WILL EXPAND TO A TOTAL WORLD WAR FROM WHICH  
ALL NATIONS OF THIS WORLD WILL SUFFER DESPITE WHAT HAS BEEN  
STIPULATED IN THE AGREEMENTS OF NON-CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE  
MAJOR POWERS. THEREFORE, THE UTMOST RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS  
CONFLICT IN THE AREA FALLS ON THE SHOULDERS OF ISRAEL. THE  
U.S. MUST FORCE ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ARAB TERRITORIES  
AND GIVE THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE THEIR RIGHTS TO THEIR LANDS  
AND THEIR COUNTRY. E2, IMPDET.

SECRET

*Faisal reply made public*

King Faysal makes public his reply  
to Secretary Kissinger.  
HAK, Scowcroft, LL

*x Saadi  
Arab.*

FBIS 113 (OUT OF SEQUENCE)\*\*\*\*\*

FAYSAL REPLIES TO KISSINGER PLEA FOR HELP IN MIDDLE EAST

L062043 RIYADH DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ARABIC 2000 GMT 6 OCT 73 L

(TEXT) HIS MAJESTY KING FAYSAL RECEIVED A CABLED MESSAGE FROM MR. HENRY KISSINGER, U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE, IN WHICH HE ASKED HIS MAJESTY TO USE HIS GOOD OFFICES (LITERALLY 'INTERVENE'--FBIS) WITH PRESIDENT ANWAR AS-SADAT OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT AND LT GEN HAFIZ AL-ASAD, PRESIDENT OF THE SYRIAN ARABIC REPUBLIC, TO STOP THE CURRENT FIGHTING BETWEEN EGYPT AND SYRIA ON THE ONE HAND AND ISRAEL ON THE OTHER. HIS MAJESTY REPLIED BY THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM:

YOUR EXCELLENCY, SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES, HENRY KISSINGER: I HAVE RECEIVED THE MESSAGE SENT BY YOUR EXCELLENCY WHICH SAYS THAT ON THE STRENGTH OF A REPORT EMANATING FROM ISRAEL TO THE EFFECT THAT THE EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN FORCES HAD BEEN

PLANNING TO LAUNCH A COORDINATED ATTACK ON THE ISRAELI FORCES, YOUR EXCELLENCY BECAME CERTAIN WHEN LAND AND AIR CLASHES ACTUALLY TOOK PLACE BETWEEN THE EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN FORCES ON THE ONE HAND AND THE ISRAELI FORCES ON THE OTHER, THAT IT WAS (THE EGYPTIANS AND SYRIANS) WHO STARTED THE ATTACK ON ISRAEL.

I BELIEVE THAT THIS ATTACK IS A LINK IN THE CHAIN OF THE ISRAELI POLICY DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT THE EXPANSIONIST PLAN AS PART OF HER AGGRESSIVE POLICY AGAINST THE ARAB COUNTRIES. THE ARABS HAVE NEVER COMMITTED ANY AGGRESSION AGAINST ISRAEL. SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN ISRAEL WHICH HAS BEGUN THE AGGRESSION, AND EACH TIME IT HAS WON A CERTAIN AREA OF LAND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS OPEN PLANS.

IF THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT ACT TO DETER ISRAEL (WORDS INDISTINCT), THE VOLCANO WHICH HAS SO FAR BEEN QUIET IN THE MIDDLE EAST WILL BE ACTIVE AGAIN AND ITS HOLOCAUST WILL NOT BE CONFINED TO THIS REGION ALONE, BUT WILL DEVELOP INTO AN ALL-OUT THIRD WORLD WAR (ENGULFING ALL COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD) (WORDS INDISTINCT) (CONTRARY TO?) THE AGREEMENTS OF NONCONFRONTATION BETWEEN BIG POWERS.

THEREFORE, ISRAEL BEARS THE MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS CURRENT CONFLICT IN THE REGION. THE UNITED STATES SHOULD FORCE ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ARAB TERRITORIES AND TO GRANT THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE THEIR RIGHTS IN THEIR TERRITORY AND HOMELAND.

(SIGNED) FAYSAL

6 OCT 2120Z WJ/BG\*\*\*\*\*

73 War

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FLASH /OP IMMED  
DE RUSHC #9583 2791244  
Z 00061233Z OCT 73 ZFF6  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN FLASH 4863  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA FLASH 2929

INFO USINT CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE 4596  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW NIACT IMMEDIATE 5487  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE 7938  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE 1033  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 3761

Secretary's  
message to  
Faisal & Hussein

T O P S E C R E T STATE 199583

TOSEC 141  
E.O. 11652: -XGDS  
SUBJ: MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO KING FAISAL AND KING  
HUSSEIN

1. PLEASE SEND FOLLOWING ORAL MESSAGE TO KING FAISAL  
AND KING HUSSEIN FROM SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER:  
QUOTE:

YOUR MAJESTY:

WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED THE REPORT FROM THE ISRAELIS THAT  
EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN FORCES ARE PLANNING A COORDINATED  
ATTACK WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL HOURS. WE HAVE URGED  
THE ISRAELIS NOT TO LAUNCH ANY PREEMPTIVE ATTACK. I  
HAVE SPOKEN WITH THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO URGE  
THAT HIS GOVERNMENT REFRAIN FROM LAUNCHING ANY ATTACK  
WHICH COULD LEAD TO SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES. WE HAVE  
ALSO DISCUSSED THIS MATTER ON A MOST URGENT BASIS WITH  
THE SOVIETS.

I ASK YOU MAJESTY TO INTERVENE IMMEDIATELY WITH PRESIDENTS  
SADAT AND ASSAD AND URGE THAT NO SUCH ATTACK BE LAUNCHED  
ON THEIR PART. WE BELIEVE THIS IS A TIME FOR RESTRAINT,  
NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE OBVIOUS DANGERS THAT ARE IN-  
VOLVED BUT BECAUSE IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN CONDITIONS  
WHICH WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE IN THE DAYS AHEAD TO  
PURSUE A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI  
CONFLICT. UNQUOTE. RUSH  
BT

*B war*

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S E C R E T

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FLASH  
ESA482ADA389  
DE RUEAD #7766 2791040  
Z 061033Z OCT 73 ZFF-4  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 9988

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 7766

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR XF IS US UR

SUBJECT: GOI CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN ATTACK TODAY

*Mrs. Meir's early meeting  
with Keating saying Israel  
expects attacks.*

1. AT PRIME MINISTER'S URGENT REQUEST, I MET WITH HER AT HER TEL AVIV OFFICE THIS MORNING AT 10:15. I WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DCM, AMB DINITZ, MORDECHAI GAZIT OF PM'S OFFICE AND AVRAHAM KIDRON, DIRGEN MFA, ALSO PRESENT.

2. MRS MEIR INITIATED CONVERSATION BY NOTING "WE MAY BE IN TROUBLE". THEN GAVE ME A REVIEW OF THE SITUATION RE REPORTED SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN BUILD-UPS DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS. I NOTED THAT WE HAD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH THE IDF ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AND WE WERE TOLD THE SITUATION WAS NOT DANGEROUS. MRS MEIR SAID THAT THIS WAS AN ACCURATE EVALUATION AT THE TIME, BUT THAT WITHIN THE LAST 12 HOURS THE SITUATION HAD BECOME VERY SERIOUS.

ISRAEL HAD INFO FROM A NUMBER OF TOTALLY RELIABLE SOURCES THAT SYRIA AND EGYPT WERE PLANNING A COORDINATED ATTACK AGAINST ISRAEL TODAY IN THE LATE AFTERNOON.

3. IN ADDITION TO INFO RE MILITARY SITUATION GOI HAD HARD INFO THAT SOVIET DEPENDENTS AND AT LEAST SOME ADVISORS WERE BEING EVACUATED FROM SYRIA AND AEGYPT. AT FIRST, SAID MRS MEIR, THE GOI THOUGHT THE SOVIET EVACUATION FROM SYRIA MIGHT MEAN A BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, BUT THIS NOW DOES NOT SEEM TO BE THE CASE SINCE A NUMBER OF SOVIET ADVISORS ARE STILL IN COUNTRY AND APPARENTLY PLANNING TO REMAIN. ALSO, GOI HAS INFO THAT SOVIET NAVAL VESSELS HAVE DEPARTED ALEXANDRIA. ISRAEL COULD ONLY SPECULATE ON REASON FOR SOVIET EXODUS, BUT ONE GOI SOURCE REPORTED THIS IS PART OF SOVIET NEGATIVE REACTION TO PLANNED EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN ATTACKS.

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PAGE 01

TOR:279/11:04Z

DTG:061033Z OCT 73

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4. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, SAID MRS. MEIR, ISRAEL WANTED THE URGENT  
HELP OF THE US IN TRYING TO HEAD OFF HOSTILITIES. SHE ASKED IF WE  
WOULD PASS ON TO THE SOVIETS AND EGYPTIANS THE FOLLOWING AS  
FAST AS POSSIBLE.

A. ISRAEL IS NOT PLANNING TO ATTACK SYRIA OR EGYPT. IT HAS  
DEPLOYED ITS FORCES TO PROTECT ITSELF IN CASE OF ATTACK AND, ON  
A CONTINGENCY BASIS IS CALLING UP "SOME RESERVES". (SHE CONFIRMED  
THIS IS NOT GENERAL MOBILIZATION)

B. ISRAEL IS WELL AWARE OF THE MILITARY DISPOSITIONS OF EGYPT  
AND SYRIA. IF THEY ATTACK, THEY WILL LOSE AS SHE HAS BEEN  
ASSURED THIS AM BY DEPMIN DAYAN ALTHOUGH THE ATTACKERS CAN  
CAUSE DAMAGE AND INFLECT CAUSALITIES WHICH ISRAEL WISHES TO  
AVOID.

5. IN ANSWER TO MY SPECIFIC QUESTION, MRS. MEIR REPLIED WITHOUT  
HESITATION THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOT RPT NOT LAUNCH A PRE-EMPTIVE  
ATTACK, NOTING THAT ISRAEL WOULD SUCCESSFULLY DEFEND ITSELF IF  
ATTACKED, BUT EMPHASIZING THAT THE GOI WISHES TO AVOID  
BLOODSHED.

6. DATT HAS BEEN BRIEFED BY IDF RE DETAILS OF MILITARY SITUATION  
IS REPORTING SEPARATELY BY IMMEDIATE CABLE.

7. PM'S OFFICE HAS JUST CALLED FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY PRESS  
GUIDANCE FOR IDF: IN ANSWER TO QUESTION IDF SPOKESMAN WILL  
SAY: "FOLLOWING CONCENTRATION OF SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN TROOPS  
THE IDF HAS TAKEN DEFENSIVE MEASURES INCLUDING A CALL UP OF  
SOME RESERVES."

8. AMB. DINITZ WILL LEAVE FOR WASHINGTON ON FIRST AVAILABLE  
PLANE. HE SHOULD BE THERE TOMORROW AT LATEST.  
COMMENT: I BELIEVE MRS MEIR SINCERELY WISHES TO AVOID USELESS  
BLOODSHED. I TRUST WE CAN AID IN THIS WORTHY ENDEAVOR. IF POSSIBLE,  
I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE SOME KIND OF REPLY TO PM WITHIN NEXT FEW  
HOURS.  
KEATING  
BT

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DOCUMENT CONTROL RECORD

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FLASH  
ESA681ADA431  
DE RUESAD #7771 2791438  
Z 061429Z ZFF-6  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 9989

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN FLASH 6382  
USINT CAIRO FLASH 3516  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT FLASH 4927  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM FLASH 4905  
AMEMBASSY LONDON FLASH 2139  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW FLASH 1138  
AMEMBASSY PARIS FLASH 1746  
AMEMBASSY ROME FLASH 1097  
USMISSION USUN FLASH 3837

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 7771

DIS  
L.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MOPS, XF  
SUBJECT: HOSTILITIES IN MID-EAST  
REF: STATE 199583 NOTAL

1. AT MY REQUEST, DCM AT 2:30 P.M. TODAY OCT 6, TELEPHONED MORDECHAI GAZIT, DIRGEN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, TO PASS ON FOR INFO OF MRS MEIR FACT THAT US HAD RESPONDED IMMEDIATELY TO HER REQUEST IN ATTEMPT TO HEAD OFF HOSTILITIES. NOW THAT HOSTILITIES HAD ERUPTED ON BOTH FRONTS, HOWEVER, I BELIEVED WE HAD TO CONSIDER WHERE WE GO FROM HERE, AND SPECIFICALLY, DID GOI BELIEVE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO LIMIT OR CONTAIN HOSTILITIES IN ORDER ALLOW ONGOING DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES PLAY ROLE IN ARRIVING AT CEASE FIRE?

2. GAZIT REPLIED THAT PRIMIN WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL TO LEARN OF RAPIDITY WITH WHICH WE HAD RESPONDED TO HER REQUEST. UNFORTUNATELY COORDINATED ATTACKS BY EGYPT AND SYRIA AT 2:00 P.M. HAD FRUSTRATED OUR PEACE INITIATIVE. (HE CLAIMED AERIAL BOMBING AND ARTILLERY ATTACKS INITIATED SIMULTANEOUSLY BY SYRIA AND EGYPT ON BOTH FRONTS.)

3. GAZIT SAID HE COULD NOT ANSWER MY QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBLE

Keating's carrying  
out of instructions  
with GAZIT

PSN:048780

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PAGE 01

TOR:279/14:51Z

DTG:061429Z OCT 73

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FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS GIVEN CURRENT SERIOUSNESS OF MILITARY SITUATION. CABINET WOULD CONTINUE TO MEET IN VIRTUAL CONTINUOUS SESSION IN TEL AVIV AND ALL HE COULD SAY WAS THAT ISRAEL WOULD TAKE ANY ACTION IT CONSIDERED NECESSARY IN ITS OWN DEFENSE.

4. AT END OF CONVERSATION, DCM ASKED GAZIT TO INFORM MRS MEIR THAT I AM AT HER DISPOSAL AT ANY TIME FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS.

5. COMMENT. IT IS POSSIBLE I COULD BE CALLED BY PRIMIN ON SHORT NOTICE AS CRISIS DEVELOPS. I WOULD, THEREFORE, APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY SPECIFIC GUIDANCE DEPT MIGHT HAVE FOR SUCH A CONVERSATION.

KEATING

BT

RECALLED

77-1070-1/517

DTG:065420Z OCT 72

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73 War

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FLASH /OP IMMED  
DTA536  
DE RUEHDT #3681 2791431  
Z 061358Z OCT 73 ZFF-6  
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV FLASH 4208

INFO USINT CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE 3467  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW NIACT IMMEDIATE 4585  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN NIACT IMMEDIATE 3613  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE 1236  
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9926

S E C R E T USUN 3681

EXDIS SECTO 24  
E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFDR, IS  
FOR AMBASSADOR KEATING FROM SECRETARY

*Secretary's  
instruction to Keating  
for Mrs. Meire*

. YOU SHOULD SEE PRIME MINISTER SOONEST AND MAKE FOLLOWING  
POINTS: (A) SECRETARY HAS TALKED WITH DOBRYNIN REQUESTING  
SOVIETS TO INTERVENE WITH EGYPT AND SYRIA WITH A VIEW  
TO HAVING THEM REFRAIN FROM ANY ATTACK.  
(B) SECRETARY HAS ALSO MADE SIMILAR URGENT REQUEST  
TO EGYPTIAN FOR MIN ZAYYAT;  
(C) WE ARE ALSO INTERVENING WITH FAISAL AND HUSSEIN;  
(D) USG DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE OF ASSURANCE JUST  
RECEIVED FROM GOI THAT IT WILL REFRAIN FROM PREEMPTIVE  
STRIKE. THE SECRETARY HAS COMMUNICATED THIS ASSURANCE TO BOTH  
THE EGYPTIANS AND SOVIETS.  
KISSINGER  
BT.



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ESA756KGA737  
DE RUEKSG #5335 2791445  
O 061415Z OCT 73  
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9610

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE 7273  
USINT CAIRO IMMEDIATE 2439  
AMEMBASSY JDDA IMMEDIATE 2321  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 0428  
USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE 2576  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE 5464

King Hussein's  
response to  
Secretary's message

T O P S E C R E T AMMAN 5335

DEPARTMENT PASS DIA IMMEDIATE  
C.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
GS: MOPS, JD, XF  
OBJ: MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO KING HUSSEIN  
REF: STATE 199583

1. I DELIVERED SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO KING HUSSEIN ORALLY  
1530 LOCAL TIME. I REMARKED THAT RECENT EVENTS HAD PROBABLY  
OVERTAKEN PURPOSE OF MESSAGE BUT THAT HE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY  
WISH TO BE APPRAISED OF SECRETARY'S CONCERN RE LATEST DEVELOP-  
MENTS.

2. KING SAID HE APPRECIATED SPIRIT IN WHICH MESSAGE HAD BEEN  
SENT BUT THAT IT WAS UNFORTUNATELY TOO LATE. HE SAID THAT SO  
FAR HE HAD RECEIVED NO REPORT OF MILITARY ACTIVITY ON JORDAN'S  
FRONTIERS BUT THAT HE HAD PLACED ON FULL ALERT HIS TWO DIVISIONS  
ON JORDAN'S NORTHWEST BORDERS. HE SAID HE WOULD KEEP ME INFORMED  
OF ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND ASKED THAT WE DO THE SAME. GRAHAM  
BT

\*\*\*\*\* \*WHSR COMMENT\*\*\*\*\*

SCOWCROFT,LL

PCN:048891

PAGE 01

OF 01

TOR:279/16:54Z

DTG:061415Z OCT

US Embassy, Jidda <sup>73 was</sup>

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UN

PRIORITY  
ESA963AAA652  
DE RUESRA #4313 279257  
P 062248Z OCT 73  
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5108

S E C R E T JIDDA 4313

EMBASSY JIDDA SUGGESTS  
U.S. SEEK EARLY CEASEFIRE  
EVEN IF ISRAELIS NOT  
WILLING TO GO ALONG.

EXDIS  
E.O. 11652:DLGDS  
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, XF, SA  
SUBJ: SAUDI REACTIONS TO CONTINUED ARAB-QWSTH TTYOWUAI  
D  
REF: JIDDA 4312

1. IF EGYPTIANS AND SYRIANS ACTED ON NOTION THEY COULD SNEAK  
IN A PUNCH AND BE SAVED BY THE BELL, THEY MAY BE PROVED WRONG  
OCT. 7 AND ON SUCCEEDING DAYS.

2. FROM JIDDA STANDPOINT, HOWEVER, WISH TO POINT OUT THAT IF  
ISRAELI RETALIATION TOO PROLONGED, AND HUMILIATING, SAG WILL  
COME UNDER ARAB PRESSURE TO ACT AGAINST INTERESTS OF U.S.  
(WHICH SAUDIS AND MANY OTHER ARABS BELIEVE CAN FULLY CONTROL  
GOI).

3. WE SHOULD, THEREFORE, DO OUR BEST TO BRING ABOUT A CEASE-  
FIRE SOON, AND PERHAPS EARLIER THAN IDF WOULD DESIRE.

HORAN

BT

\* \* \* \* \* W H S R C O M M E N T \* \* \* \* \*

HAK, SCOWCROFT, LL, QUANDT

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DATE 10/07/73

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 001

MESSAGE ANNOTATIONS:

HAK, SCOWCROFT, LL, QUANDT, HORAN

MESSAGE:

IMMEDIATE

DE RUEHDT #3692 2792222

0062157Z OCT 73

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9936

S E C R E T USUN 3692

E.O. 11652: GDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, ME

SUBJ: THE UN IN THE MIDDLE EAST

1. BEFORE CONVERSATION WITH MCINTYRE REPORTED USUN 3690, TRIAL BALLOONS WERE BEING FLOATED BY VARIOUS PARTIES AND THERE WAS NO SINGLE DEVELOPING SCENARIO. THIS TELEGRAM ATTEMPTS TO ANALYZE MORE IMPORTANT CONTINGENCIES STILL BEFORE US.

2. ARAB LEADERSHIP (LARGELY IN HAND OF EGYPTIANS) HAS SEEMED TO FAVOR SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING TO DEAL WITH BOTH PRESENT AND LONGER TERM MAJOR ASPECTS OF ME. THIS COULD TAKE PLACE MONDAY MORNING. POSTURE OF SOVIET MISSION IS SUPPORTIVE OF EGYPTIANS. PRINCIPAL EGYPTIAN AIMS WOULD INCLUDE MORE PRO-ARAB ASSEMBLY INTERPRETATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242 TO REQUIRE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AS PRECONDITION TO NEGOTIATIONS. THEY WOULD SEEK CONDEMNATION OF ISRAELI AGGRESSION IN PAST AND, NOTWITHSTANDING CONTRARY EVIDENCE, TRY TO FIX RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRESENT OUTBREAK ON TEL AVIV AND ITS SUPPORTERS. US WOULD INEVITABLY BE PILLORIED FOR MAKING ISRAELI "AGGRESSION" POSSIBLE BY MASSIVE ARMS AID. ARABS WITH SOVIET SUPPORT WOULD LIKELY COMMAND "AUTOMATIC MAJORITY" FOR THEIR RESOLUTION.

3. ALTERNATIVE ARENA IS SECURITY COUNCIL. EVEN IF EARLY SC MEETING HELD, E.G. SATURDAY EVENING OR SUNDAY, ARABS MIGHT PROCEED TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY EXERCISE MONDAY IN ANY EVENT UNDER GUISE OF NORMAL GENERAL DEBATE.

4. ARABS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS WOULD PROBABLY PREFER TO MAKE VETO-FREE GA THE PUBLIC FOCUS. THUS WE COULD NOT

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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MESSAGE (CONTINUED):

ENTIRELY PREVENT THEIR USING GA FORUM, EVEN IF SC SEIZED WITH ISSUE. AS A MATTER OF HARD REALITY SC IS LIKELY TO CONVENE ONLY IF US TAKES INITIATIVE FOR A MEETING. BRITISH BEGAN WAFLING AS SOON AS THEY HEARD EGYPTIANS WERE CONSIDERING ALTERNATIVES. NO OTHER SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBER SEEMS INCLINED TO CARRY BALL, NOR CAN SYG WALDHEIM OR SC PRESIDENT MCINTYRE OR AUSTRALIA BE EXPECTED TO TAKE INITIATIVE FOR A MEETING. ALL THESE POSSIBILITIES WOULD OF COURSE BE ALTERED IF SITUATION ON GROUND IN ME TOOK DRAMATIC TURN.

5. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES ONLY POSSIBILITY OF SC ACTION CAPABLE OF MITIGATING THESE PROSPECTS (AND THAT FORESEEN BY MCINTYRE) LIES IN STRONG US DEMAND FOR MEETING ACCOMPANIED OR FOLLOWED BY EFFORT TO PASS SC RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING CEASE-FIRE AND CALLING FOR RETURN TO PRE-OCTOBER MILITARY POSITIONS.

6. THERE IS NO CERTAINTY SUCH A RESOLUTION WOULD REMAIN INTACT, OR WOULD RECEIVE NECESSARY 9 AFFIRMATIVE VOTES, OR THAT IT WOULD NOT BE VETOED. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE US POSITION IN PUBLIC OPINION, AND IN ANY SUBSEQUENT UNDEBATE, WOULD BE MEASURABLY STRENGTHENED; THOSE WHO ABSTAINED OR VOTED NO WOULD BEAR CLEAR RESPONSIBILITY. WHILE DEBATE IN SC WOULD BE UGLY, THE COUNCIL IS UNQUESTIONABLY BEST BATTLEGROUND FROM US POINT OF VIEW AND CLEARLY THE BEST PLACE TO MAKE US OPPOSITION TO ARMED CONFLICT.

7. THERE COULD BE COME VERY DIFFICULT MOMENTS, BUT BUT I CAN SEE NO CONTINGENCY UNDER WHICH WE WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF NOT TO HAVE MADE A STRONG TRY IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. WHETHER OR NOT ISRAELI MILITARY MAKES MASSIVE SUCCESSFUL RESPONSE, THE POSSIBILITY OF REESTABLISHING THE CEASE-FIRE AND SETTING THE STAGE FOR OTHER EFFORTS WOULD HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED.  
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FLASH  
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Z 061250Z OCT 73  
FM NEW YORK

TO WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EXCLUSIVE EYES ONLY

FLASH  
TO THE WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM  
FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER

PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING TO THE PRESIDENT FOR DELIVERY AT  
9:00 A.M., WITH INFORMATION COPY TO GENERAL HAIG.

BEGIN TEXT.

REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT

AT 6:00 A.M. THIS MORNING, I WAS NOTIFIED THAT THE  
ISRAELIS HAVE WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE HARD INFORMATION  
THAT EGYPTIANS AND SYRIANS WERE PLANNING TO LAUNCH A  
COORDINATED ATTACK WITHIN SIX HOURS.

I IMMEDIATELY CALLED DOBRYNIN AND TOLD HIM OF THE  
ISRAELI DEMARCH. I EMPHASIZED TO HIM THAT:

-- THE U.S. AND THE USSR HAVE A SPECIAL  
RESPONSIBILITY TO RESTRAIN THEIR RESPECTIVE  
FRIENDS.

-- WE ARE URGENTLY COMMUNICATING WITH THE  
ISRAELIS, WARNING THEM AGAINST ANY PREEMPTIVE  
ATTACK.

-- THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR OUR OWN RELATIONSHIP  
THAT THIS CRISIS NOT DEGENERATE INTO ARMED CONFLICT.

I ASKED DOBRYNIN TO CALL MOSCOW IMMEDIATELY TO REPORT  
THIS INFORMATION AND TO ASK HIS GOVERNMENT TO RESTRAIN  
SYRIA AND EGYPT. HE PROMISED TO DO SO AND HAS DONE SO.  
(IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE THE ABOVE, WE HAD DOBRYNIN USE OUR  
COMMUNICATIONS.)

I THEN CALLED ISRAELI CHARGE SHALEV AND TOLD HIM  
THAT I HAD TALKED TO DOBRYNIN. I EMPHASIZED TO HIM  
THE ESSENTIALITY OF RESTRAINT ON THE ISRAELI PART, AND  
SAID THERE MUST BE NO PREEMPTIVE STRIKE.

2.

SHALEV CALLED BACK SHORTLY THEREAFTER AND SAID HIS  
GOVERNMENT ASSURED US THERE WOULD BE NO PREEMPTIVE ACTION.  
SHORTLY THEREAFTER WE RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM PRIME

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RECALLED  
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for Pres from HAK -

outbreak of war

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MINISTER MEIR CONFIRMING THIS.

NEXT, I CALLED THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ZAYYAT. I TOLD HIM OF REPORTS WE HAD OF POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL AND URGED THAT NO ATTACK BE LAUNCHED AND THAT THERE BE RESTRAINT BY HIS GOVERNMENT AND SYRIA. HE REPLIED THAT HE SUSPECTED ISRAELI PROVOCATION BUT WOULD COMMUNICATE WITH CAIRO IMMEDIATELY.

I HAVE SENT PERSONAL MESSAGES TO KING HUSSEIN AND KING FAISAL URGING THEM TO INTERVENE WITH PRESIDENTS SADAT AND ASSAD.

I HAVE ASCERTAINED THE LOCATION OF THE SIXTH FLEET, BUT HAVE TAKEN NO ACTION IN REGARD TO THAT FOR THE TIME BEING.

AFTER RECEIVING THE ISRAELI ASSURANCES THAT NO PREEMPTIVE STRIKE WOULD BE LAUNCHED I PASSED THIS ON TO BOTH ZAYYAT AND DORRYNIN. I TOLD THEM THAT SINCE THIS MESSAGE WAS PASSED TO US, WE WOULD OPPOSE ANY PREEMPTIVE STRIKES.

I HAVE SENT A BRIEF ALERT MESSAGE TO VARIOUS OF OUR POSTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST JUST SO QUIET PRECAUTIONS COULD BE TAKEN.

I AM MAKING DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HERE IN NEW YORK AND HAVE ASKED DORRYNIN TO DO THE SAME.

I WILL BE CALLING SYG WALDHEIM TO GIVE HIM A GENERAL PICTURE OF THE SITUATION SO THAT "THE U.N. WILL BE INFORMED", BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE NO NEED AT THE MOMENT FOR CONSIDERING SECURITY COUNCIL RECOURSE. I WILL STRESS THAT THE REPORT IS FOR INFORMATION AND THAT WE ARE NOT ASKING FOR ANY ACTION BY THE U.N. AT THIS TIME.

I HAVE DIRECTED BRENT SCOWCROFT TO CALL A 9:00 A.M. NSAC MEETING. WE HAVE REQUESTED AN URGENT INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE FROM THE CIA, AND WE WILL HAVE FURTHER INFORMATION AT THAT TIME REGARDING SIXTH FLEET DISPOSITIONS.

IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO GIVE YOU AT BEST WHAT CAN BE A PRELIMINARY JUDGMENT. ON THE BASIS OF THE INFORMATION WE HAVE, I BELIEVE THE ISRAELI FEARS OF A POSSIBLE ATTACK ARE JUSTIFIED. HOPEFULLY, WE WILL BE ABLE TO GENERATE SUFFICIENT PRESSURE SO THAT COOLER HEADS WILL PREVAIL.

I SHALL KEEP YOU FULLY INFORMED AS THE SITUATION DEVELOPS.

HENRY A. KISSINGER  
SECRETARY OF STATE

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3895

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN 2664  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 3513  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA 1607  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1543  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE 3282  
USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE 2192

*Egyptian position  
on hostilities con-  
veyed thru Spanish*

C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 2968

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS EG IS

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN POSITION ON OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES  
AND DEFINITION OF AREAS OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

1. SPANISH COUNSELOR VILLACIEROS, ACTING FOR AMBASSADOR ALABART WHO IS AWAY, CALLED ME OVER TO PASS A MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM THE EGYPTIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE SAW UNDERSECRETARY KHALIL AT 6:30 P.M., WHO TOLD HIM THE INFORMATION WAS FOR THE SPANISH AND THE COUNTRIES UNDER ITS PROTECTION. HE READ THE FOLLOWING FROM HAND WRITTEN NOTES IN ENGLISH: "AN OBVIOUS AGGRESSION OF ISRAEL AGAINST EGYPT AND SYRIA WAS LAUNCHED TODAY. THE ATTACK ON EGYPTIAN FORCES BEGAN AT 1330 P.M. IN THE ZAAFRAN AND SUKHNA AREA AND THE ENEMY USED SEVERAL FORMATIONS OF ITS AIR FORCE AND ALSO AT THE SAME TIME ITS NAVAL BOATS APPROACHED THE WEST COAST OF THE GULF OF SUEZ. THE ATTACK OF THE ENEMY FORCES WAS LAUNCHED ALSO IN THE SYRIAN BORDERS. THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT WISHES TO LET KNOW ALL PEACE LOVING COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD ABOUT THIS ISRAELI AGGRESSION AND THE PREPARATION FOR IT BY LAUNCHING ITS AIR ATTACK AGAINST SYRIA ON SEPTEMBER 13 AND THEN FOLLOWED BY MASSING ITS TROOPS ON THE SYRIAN AND LEBANESE LINES. SINCE 1967, AND IN PARTICULAR SINCE AUGUST 1970, ISRAEL CONTINUED TO CHALLENGE ALL RESOLUTIONS TAKEN BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND TO DIVIDE WORLD AND PUBLIC OPINION AS WELL. ALL PEACE

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LOVING NATIONS IN THE WORLD HAD OBVIOUSLY CONDEMNED THE ISRAELI POSITION. THIS WAS EXPRESSED IN VARIOUS RESOLUTIONS ISSUED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL AS THE OAU AND THE CONFERENCES OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES. EGYPT IS RESTORING TODAY ITS LEGITIMATE RIGHT OF SELF DEFENSE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 51 OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER."

2. UNDERSECRETARY KHALIL THEN WENT ON TO READ: "THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT WISHES TO INFORM THAT AS A RESULT OF ISRAELI TROOPS ATTACK TODAY IN GULF OF SUEZ, IT CONSIDERS THE TERRITORIAL WATERS OF EGYPT AND THE CONTIGUOUS HIGH SEAS AS AREAS OF NAVAL OPERATIONS. THE LIMITATIONS OF THESE AREAS ARE AS FOLLOWS: (1) MEDITERRANEAN SEA: AREAS UP TO LATITUDE 33 NORTH AND LONGITUDE 29 DEGREES 20 MINUTES EAST; (2) RED SEA: AREA NORTH OF LATITUDE 23. THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT URGES ALL STATES TO INSTRUCT THEIR SHIPS TO STEER AWAY FROM THE ABOVE MENTIONED AREAS FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY."

3. THE UNDERSECRETARY ALSO TOLD MR. VILLACIEROS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT WAS INFORMING OTHER AMBASSADORS IN CAIRO CONCERNING THIS SITUATION BY THE SAME MEANS.

4. VILLACIEROS ALSO TOLD UNDERSECRETARY KHALIL THAT HE WOULD INFORM THE U.S. INTERESTS SECTION IMMEDIATELY OF THE ABOVE.  
SMITH  
BT

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